

PITSTOP



March 2024

Winton Open Day
Drifting & Hot Laps

**Hi-Tec Oils Media
Launch**
2024 Season

**Benalla Street
Art Festival and
Winton Raceway**
2024 Partnership

VMRC Round 1
High-flying action

AASA
Hyundai Launch at
Winton Raceway





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CREDITS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Members,

We are in March already !!

As you would know the club has a brand new website and a new but simple Membership renewal process.

The committee, in particular, the secretary, have been hard at work getting members details correct and making sure we communicate with you all on a regular basis.

If at any time you need anything to do with the club, just email secretary@benallaautoclub.com.au Club secretary Michael FitzGerald will be happy to help you out.

Winton has been busy with plenty of Track days and gearing up for a busy year of Race Meetings. With support from Council, the Winton Campground is now open 24/7 and is starting to see a regular patronage as the word spreads.

In the middle of March saw Round 2 of the Victorian State Race Series as well as the Winton promoted VMRC Rd 1 at Calder Park.

The racing year starts off in earnest in April for the Winton team.

AASA again has started the year off amazing and of course continues to be a fantastic business.

I look forward to seeing all the wonderful Winton Officials that we get to see throughout the year and thank them for their tireless efforts time and time again. You will read some updates about the track and AASA later in the magazine.

For those members with Club Registered Cars please make sure you take advantage of the Club display we are having at the Austin 7 Historics in May and also any of the planned displays at upcoming Race Meetings this year. We will be sending out regular details and information about these in the coming days and weeks. Let the Secretary know if you need more information on this.

Don't forget the next Winton Fun Day on June 16.

I would like to thank the Teams at both Winton and AASA for their ongoing dedication and loyalty as well as the Current Committee for their commitment and dedication. I am really enjoying working with them all as they all wish the best for the club.

See you at the circuit!

Barry Stilo
President
Benalla Auto Club Inc.



Looking ahead to a positive and event filled 2024

The Benalla Auto Club (BAC) gears up for an action-packed year ahead. With a lineup of events tailored for members.

At the heart of the BAC's calendar are the Show & Shine events, inviting members to showcase your prized vehicles in all their glory. These events, scattered throughout the year, promise not only a visual feast for car enthusiasts but also the chance to compete for trophies and prizes. Whether it's the sleek curves of a classic Holden or the raw power of a race-ready machine, each Show & Shine event is a celebration of automotive excellence.

But the BAC isn't just about polished chrome and gleaming paintwork—it's also a community of passionate drivers united by their love of the open road. Informal social drive events, announced through Facebook and the BAC Newsletter, will offer members the opportunity to socialise and explore scenic routes of the region. Recently, a group of members embarked on a trip to the National Holden Museum at Echuca, soaking in the sights and sounds of automotive history before the museum's doors closed on April 14th.



For members craving the rush of competition, the Winton Sprint Series is a highlight of the BAC's calendar. Spread across four rounds, the series challenges drivers to push their limits on the iconic Winton Raceway. With each round promising competitors the chance to improve your time against the clock, it's a must-attend event for motorsport enthusiasts of all levels.

Mark your calendars for the following rounds of the Winton Sprint Series:

- April 6: Round 1
- June 1: Round 2
- August 17: Round 3
- November 9: Round 4

But the excitement doesn't end there. BAC has also curated a lineup of marquee events guaranteed to get pulses racing. From the adrenaline-fueled Pitcher Partners Winton 300 to the high-octane thrills of the Hi-Tec Oils Super Series, there's something for members to enjoy.





Member Highlight Andrew Fraser



Andrew Fraser, has been a member of the Benalla Auto Club for the past four years, brings a wealth of automotive enthusiasm to the local community. Following a remarkable three-decade stint in Canada, he returned to Australia, choosing to call the Winton region, home.

Andrew's passion for automobiles was ignited by his father, whose penchant for changing cars every two years left a lasting impression. Fond memories of Valiant Chargers from his youth still linger in his memory.

During his time in Canada, Andrew's automotive journey began with a Mercury Capri, a rebadged Ford Mustang, serving as his inaugural ride. Later, he became the proud second owner of a 1985 RX7, acquired in 1992. His collection expanded with the acquisition of a rare Rotary Engineered Pickup (RIPU), showcasing his appreciation for unique automotive engineering.

Across the vast landscapes of Canada, Andrew found solace on the Sea Skyhighway, a breathtaking route spanning from Vancouver to Whistler. Closer to home, Victoria's Mt Buller Road offers both scenic beauty and driving thrills.

Andrew's venture into competitive driving commenced with the Cannonball Run in 1985, where he, along with Gerard Alice and Peter Dale, navigated from Melbourne to Perth in a Holden Kingswood, securing a commendable 32nd position.

While in Canada, Andrew lent his expertise as an electrician to IndyCar, contributing to the setup of temporary sites in Vancouver and Edmonton, further enriching his automotive journey.

Back on Australian soil, Andrew has actively participated in the Winton Sprint Series, showcasing his imported RX7 from Canada. His daily companion is a VE Commodore V8 SSV Ute, embodying his enduring passion for performance.

Andrew is an example of the spirit of automotive devotion, enriching the Benalla Auto Club community with his enthusiasm and expertise.





A thrilling year ahead at Winton Raceway

Winton Raceway is kicking off the year with a roar, boasting a lineup of adrenaline-fueled events sure to delight motorsport enthusiasts of all stripes. From prestigious championships to thrilling open days, the iconic circuit promises a calendar packed with excitement.

The action began with a bang as the Official Supercars Test Day set the pace for an electrifying season. This was swiftly followed by the Winton Open Day, offering fans a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the heart of the racing world. Co-hosted with the Winton Open Day, the Hi-Tec Oils Media Launch added an extra layer of anticipation, setting the stage for what promises to be a standout year.

But the excitement doesn't stop there. Winton Raceway hosted the Vic State Series, showcasing the finest talent from the local racing scene. With each event, drivers push the limits of speed and skill, leaving spectators on the edge of their seats.

Of course, Winton's calendar wouldn't be complete without its beloved regular events. From the adrenaline rush of Winton Fun Days to the precision of Trackschool Track Days, there's something for every motorsport enthusiast. And let's not forget the heart-pounding thrill of V8 Hot Lap Experiences, offering fans the chance to ride shotgun with seasoned pros.

Looking ahead, Winton Raceway is gearing up for some truly epic events. The VMRC season promises fierce competition, with discounts for BAC members entering as competitors. Meanwhile, the NSW Motor Racing Championship will see drivers vying for glory on the iconic circuit.

History comes alive at the 47th Historic Winton, celebrating the rich heritage of motorsport with a weekend of classic cars and vintage racing. And for those craving speed, the Winton Festival of Speed promises high-octane action and heart-stopping excitement.

But perhaps the crown jewel of the season is the Pitcher Partners Winton 300, offering BAC members the chance to compete at a discounted rate. This endurance race pushes drivers to their limits, testing both their skill and their stamina.

And let's not forget the Ken Leigh HQ 4 hour, Keep It Reet, AusTimeAttack, and Hi-Tec Oils All Star Drift events, each offering its own unique blend

of speed and spectacle. Finally, the David Lowe Memorial pays tribute to a racing legend, ensuring his legacy lives on.

With such a diverse lineup of events, Winton Raceway is set to captivate audiences and thrill enthusiasts throughout the year. So buckle up and get ready for the ride of a lifetime—because at Winton, the action never stops.



Benalla Street Art Festival 2024

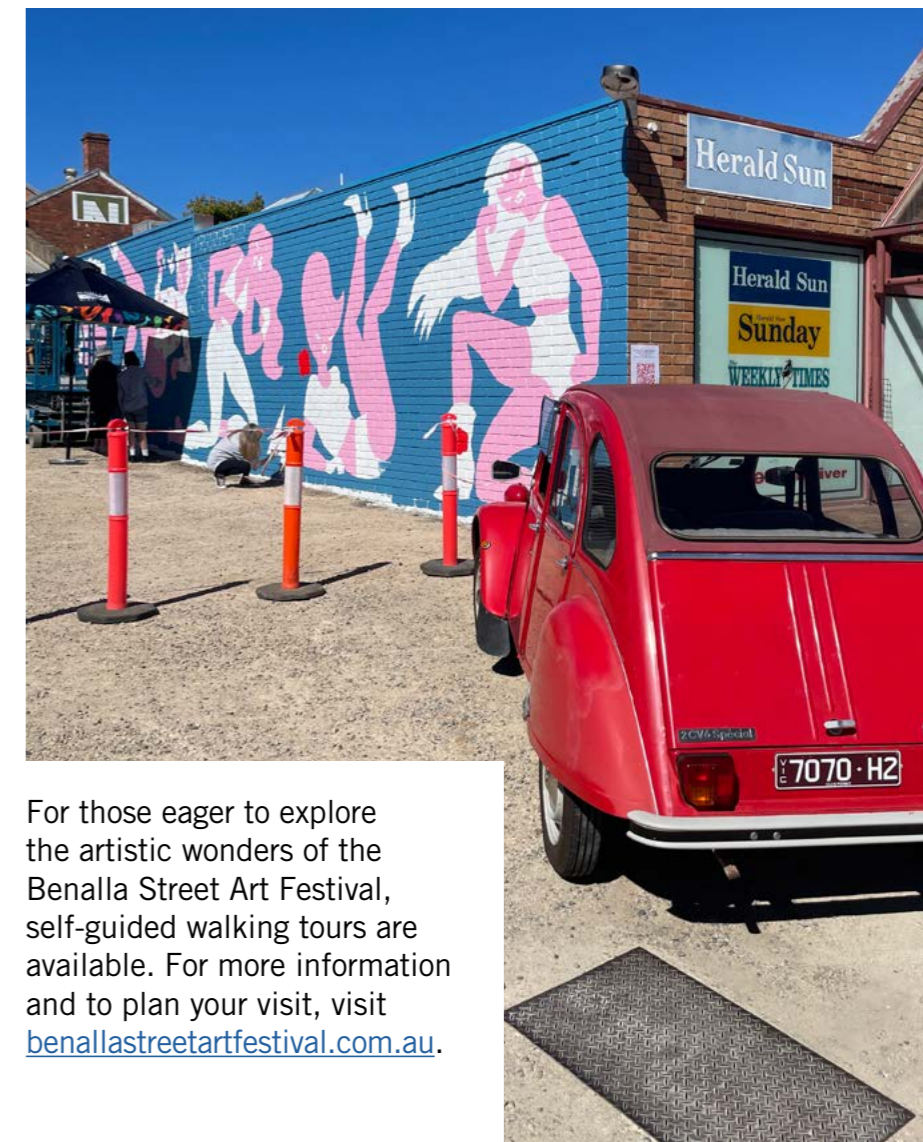


The Benalla Street Art Festival made a triumphant return this year, with Winton Motor Raceway stepping in as a proud partner for the relaunch of this cultural event. Playing host to a vibrant fusion of local and international talent, the Festival brought to life 17 stunning murals across Benalla's CBD during its eight-day run.

Under the curatorship of Eddie Zammit, 15 artists graced the city's walls, infusing the urban landscape with creativity and colour. Beyond the murals, the Festival treated both locals and visitors to a rich tapestry of over 40 fringe events, fostering community engagement and cultural exchange.

This celebration of art and culture holds profound significance for Benalla and surrounding region, firmly establishing it as a premier tourist destination. Winton Raceway, with its storied history dating back to 1961, adds to the region's attraction, contributing to its cultural and heritage landscape.

Winton Raceway's partnership with the Festival underscores its commitment to the region's economic benefit. With over 145 events planned for the year, the Raceway is a vital engine for the local economy, generating over \$35 million in direct and indirect revenue. From providing accommodation to supporting local businesses, Winton Raceway's impact resonates far beyond the confines of the racetrack.



For those eager to explore the artistic wonders of the Benalla Street Art Festival, self-guided walking tours are available. For more information and to plan your visit, visit benallastreetartfestival.com.au.



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PARTNERS

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The Heart of Art Benalla	Samantha Caddy	- Business Development
The Shed	Sally Wallace	BRCC
Lois and Neil Smith	Trish Devin	Charlie Vincent
Tricia Vale & Associates	Zach Mitchell	- Tourism North East

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To donate as a Friend of the Festival please head to benallastreetartfestival.com.au

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Winton Open Day & Hi-Tec Oils Super Series Media Day

The Winton Open Day and AASA-sanctioned Hi-Tec Oils Super Series official Media Day kicked off on Saturday March 9th 2024.

The Super Series Media Day was designed to give drivers and categories the opportunity to gain media exposure, which will be used through media telecaster AVE, outlets free-to-air SBS, Fox Sports, and livestreamed via Speedcafe and Kayo. There was also valuable track time for the categories that attended on the day. These included TA2 Muscle Cars, V8 Classic Touring Cars, Formula RX8, Hyper Racers, Legend Cars, Aus Super TT and Hi-Tec Drift Australia.

While track activity was happening, the Winton Open Day was an opportunity for spectators to watch the categories test, attend the Show & Shine, grab some food and explore the Winton Showroom featuring a mini exhibition, some iconic racing cars on display and the chance to jump on the iRacing sims to tackle Winton Motor Raceway virtually.

Winton gave hot laps experiences to lucky spectators who had won the prizes giving



WINTON RACEWAY & HI-TEC OILS UPDATE



them a unique opportunity in either a Hi-Tec Oils Drift Car, Hi-Tec Oils Racecar or an ex V8 Supercar.

"That was an awesome day!"
Tim who won a ride in the V8 Hi-Tec Oils Racecar.

A huge THANK YOU to the Hi-Tec Oils categories, drivers, media, spectators, show & shine entrants, prize winners, food vendors, volunteers, sponsors, Benalla Auto Club committee and members. And our Winton Raceway and Hi-Tec Oils team who had been working hard in preparing the Showroom and planning the event.



The next Hi-Tec Oils Super Series event is Round 1 at Sydney Motorsport Park, April 19-20. Buy spectator tickets from the below website:

hi-tecoilssuperseries.au

"It was pleasing to see everyone participate in the event and get behind it, spectators enjoying the passenger ride experiences and Show & Shine entrants enjoying parade laps. We look forward to hosting more of these events throughout the year."

Stephen Whyte, CEO, Winton Motor Raceway.



"Thank you for everything on Saturday. You guys were amazing and Thomas is very proud, as I am, on how well he went on Saturday." Rennae won the experience and gave the prize to her 16 year old son."

High-flying action and close competition mark Round 1 of VMRC at Calder Park Raceway.



Drivers took flight over Mt Jane at Calder Park Raceway on March 16-17.

The VMRC season launch was a relaxed schedule for the championship ahead of the blockbuster 2024 season, including the Pitcher Partners Winton 300 on August 9-11.

Filling the schedule over the weekend were the first rounds of the Australian Drivers' Championship, Victorian Super TT and 2 Litre Sports Sedans/Australian Pulsar Racing Association, while it was Round 2 for the VicV8's Championship.

Australian Drivers' Championship (ADC)

It was tight at the top of the ADC field as a dramatic start to the freshly titled championship unfolded! Qualifying saw the top four Hyper Racer X1's split by just four tenths of a second between reigning 2022/2023 Hyper Racer champs Dean Croke and Damon Sterling alongside new talent, Ricky Capo and Hayden Crossland.

Capo replaced F3 Champ Noah Sands who unfortunately withdrew from the weekend at the last minute for health reasons. In the end it was 2022 Hyper Racer Champion Dean Croke who took pole by an unbelievable 0.007 seconds ahead of F3 Champion and S5000 veteran, Ricky Capo, with a lap time of 0:57.95 around Calder Park Raceway.

Below them, the top 9 cars all placed within 1.3 seconds of the leader, an impressively competitive field heading into Race 1.

The cars dove into race one row after row, three cars wide, an incredible sight for onlookers who scaled the many embankments of Calder Park for a good view of the action. When all was said and done it was Capo who would take the overall round win in a nail biting battle, trading race wins for overall victory with Croke in second and Sterling third. The average gap between P1 and P2 at the finish line across all four races was just 0.9 seconds, incredibly close racing all weekend long.

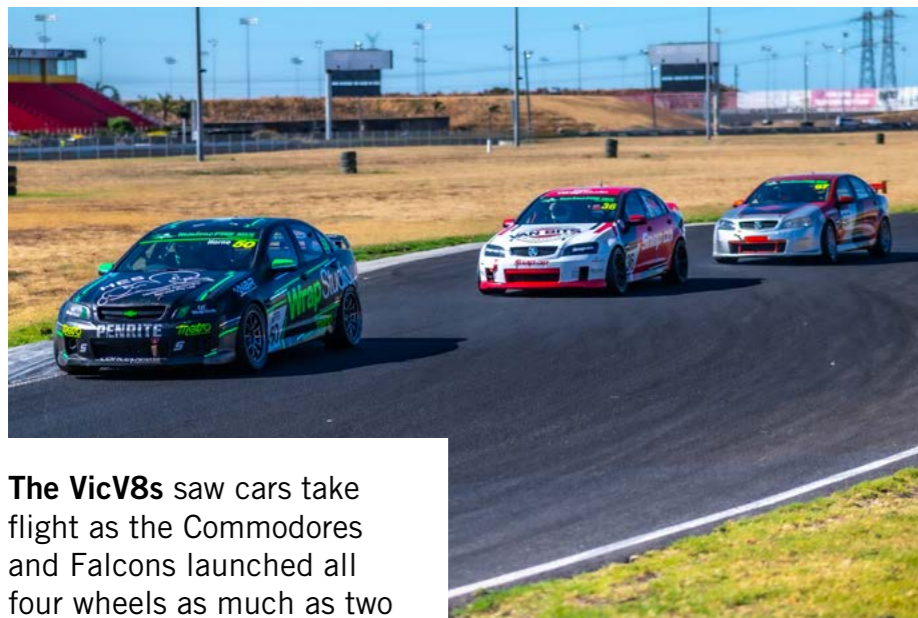
Category Manager and Hyper Racer Designer, Jon Croke said, "In the 60 years I've been actively involved in motor racing as a driver,

designer and manufacturer, I've never seen an Australian Drivers Championship race meeting as competitive as the racing I saw on the weekend. Fifteen identical Hyper Racers' fronted for the event. In qualifying the top 4 cars were within 0.4 seconds, the top 9 within 1.3 seconds. In the 4 race program, at the finish of race one only 1.6 seconds covered the top 4 after 14 laps of racing, race two 1.7 seconds and so on. Last weekend the world changed, and for the better"

RESULTS

- 1st – Ricky Capo
- 2nd – Dean Croke
- 3rd – Damon Sterling





The VicV8s saw cars take flight as the Commodores and Falcons launched all four wheels as much as two inches off the tarmac over Mt Jane, an incredible sight!

“We ran well, a few new guys winning and taking lead of the championship” said fellow competitor and Category Manager, Mark Kakouri, who won the first two races before suffering a snapped tail shaft in race three ending his weekend. Brian Finn stepped up in Kakouri’s absence to win the final two races.

However, consistency was the name of the game over the weekend and taking the outright honours and championship class win was Craig Eddy just a single point ahead of Arthur Van Orsouw. David Ratcliffe took the third spot on the podium in Championship class. Sportsman class was won by Mark Pesavento who now sits second overall in the sportsman class standings. Brian Finn was the runner up for the class. “The track

was great” said Kakouri, “it developed massively across the day with huge grip levels in the afternoon”.

RESULTS

Sportsman Class

- 1st – Mark Pesavento
- 2nd – Brian Finn

Championship Class

- 1st – Craig Eddy
- 2nd – Arthur Van Orsouw
- 3rd – David Ratcliffe



2 Litre Sports Sedans (2LSS) and the APRA ran a combined field for the weekend. Lauren Talbot showed great pace in Friday practice before suffering a suspension issue which unfortunately wrote her out for the weekend as well.

Steve Howard enjoyed a clean sweep for the weekend in his Toyota Corolla KE 30, taking qualifying and all four race wins ahead of Linda Devlin, who suffered throttle position sensor issues on Saturday and was forced to switch into her MINI JCW Cooper S’s sister car, another JCW Cooper S, to keep her second place streak going throughout Sunday. Rounding out the 2LSS Podium was the Nissan Bluebird of James Harris.

RESULTS

- 1st – Steve Howard
- 2nd – Linda Devlin
- 3rd – James Harris

The Australian Pulsar Racing Association (APRA) podium was led by Matthew Butters whose stellar performance had him secure a third outright result in the final race of the weekend, showing the Sports Sedans how it’s done. Lee Nuttall came home second overall with Declan Kirkham in third place. “We love racing with the AASA, they are so accommodating to everything we need, so much more relaxed, so much more track time and cheaper!” said Category Manager, Simon Hales.

RESULTS

- 1st – Matthew Butters
- 2nd – Lee Nuttall
- 3rd – Declan Kirkham

The Victorian Super TT Championship saw David Buntin in his Lotus Elise and Ranald Maclurkin in his Aston Martin run a fantastically competitive weekend. The two British sports cars were evenly matched providing great racing. In the end it was Buntin who would take the win for the weekend.

RESULTS

- 1st – Ranald Maclurkin
- 2nd – David Buntin



The next VMRC event, including Supertrucks, is Round 2 at Winton Motor Raceway, May 10-12.

wintonraceway.com.au/vmrc-2024



2024 Australian Drivers Championship Unveiled



Australian Driver's Championship announced for 2024

The Australian Drivers' Championship (ADC) is Australia's premiere open-wheeler motor racing championship contested annually since 1957.

2024 marks an extremely significant year for the historic racing series as the Australian Auto-Sport Alliance (AASA) will be proudly applying the title to the largest growing slicks and wings open wheeler category in Australia, the Hyper Racer Championship, honouring the illustrious 67 year history of the series.

The 2024 Australian Drivers Championship will feature rounds of the Victorian Motor Racing Championship (VMRC) calendar alongside additional interstate circuits for six rounds in total. The full national calendar is set to be released in the coming weeks.





Hyundai Launch new Facelift i30N Sedan at Winton Motor Raceway

Hyundai's N division has been a prolific supporter of motorsport to help promote their N products, particularly the i20N, i30N and Kona N which feature regularly at tracks around the country thanks to their popularity as the performance vehicle of choice for the track day enthusiast. The i30N Sedan is also the official Safety Car of Winton Motor Raceway.

This February, Hyundai Australia brought the new facelifted i30 N Sedan to Winton Raceway to let the press get their hands on the car for the first time.



It's going to be a busy year at Queensland Raceway!

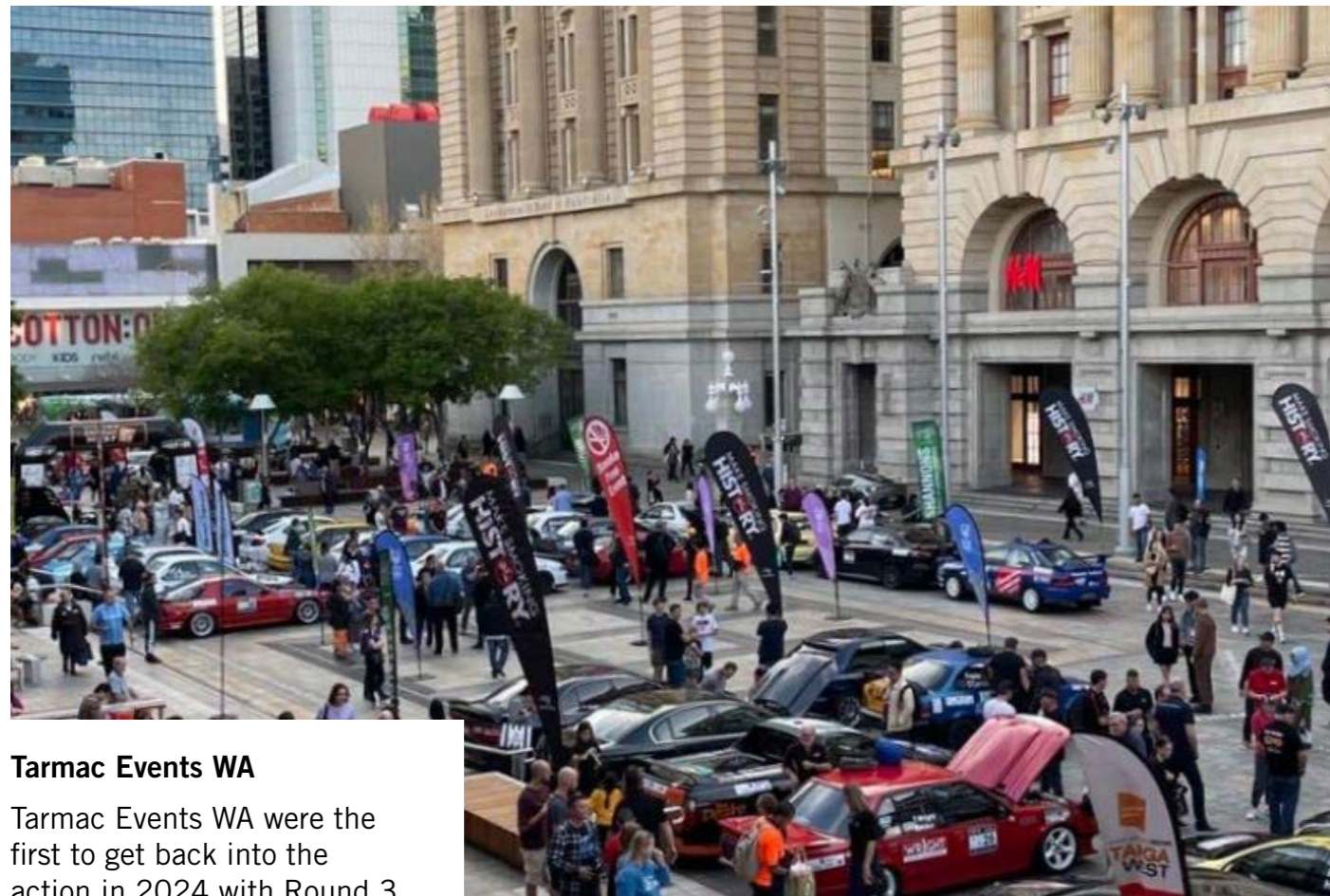
The AASA Queensland State Championship, The Queensland Racing Drivers Championship (QRDC), is also looking ahead to a fantastic year with a fantastic and diverse range of categories from GT Cars to Historics and even Super Karts!

The QRDC will also partner with several other headline events over the course of the year including the 2 Days of Thunder in June which will see the the championship join forces with the visiting Hi-Tec Oils Super Series for one massive weekend! Round four of the championship will also team up with the Queensland Festival of Motorsport, a fantastic weekend full of action and activities for all involved, family and friends, both on and off the circuit.

Visit the Queensland Raceway Website for the full calendar, entries for all 5 rounds of the QRDC are open.

To learn more or register for upcoming events, head to qldraceways.com.au

Round	Event	Dates
Round 1	Track Attack Excels SuperKarts, Replica Tourers, Australian TransAm, Utes & Hot Hatch Cup, Combined Tin Tops	5 - 7 APRIL
Round 2	Track Attack Excels SuperKarts, QLD Production Cars, Combined Tin Tops, QTCC	17 - 19 MAY
2 Days of Thunder	TA2 Muscle Cars, Australian Excel Series, QLD Production Cars, Replica Tourers, Combined Tin Tops, Australian TransAm, QTCC, Production Sports Cars, Hi-Tec Oils SUPER SERIES SS	28 - 30 JUN
Round 3	Track Attack Excels SuperKarts, QTCC, Utes & Hot Hatch Cup, Replica Tourers, Combined Tin Tops	23 - 25 AUG
Round 4	Track Attack Excels SuperKarts, Production Sports Cars, Combined Tin Tops, FESTIVAL OF MOTORSPORT ON & OFF-TRACK ACTIVITIES!	27 - 29 SEP
Round 5	Track Attack Excels SuperKarts, QLD Production Cars, QTCC, Combined Tin Tops	1 - 3 NOV



Tarmac Events WA

Tarmac Events WA were the first to get back into the action in 2024 with Round 3 of their summer rally sprint competition; The Shannons Tarmac Rally Sprint Series.

With a strong 72 entries across eight individual classes, the fight came down to the pairing of Dave Allan and Steven Clark in their GT3 RS, leading the Tarmac Cup category, alongside the Open Class leading Mitsubishi Evo X of Troy Wilson and Lachlan Carson. Wilson, who is the current Sprint Series Championship leader having won the first two rounds outright, crossed the line in the final stage to win with a lead of just three seconds ahead of the Porsche, however, clipping the traffic cone chicane resulted in a 5 second

penalty, handing the outright victory to Allan and Clark, who have been working towards a round win for many years and are extremely deserving of the accomplishment. Congratulations Dave and Steven, and congratulations to all of the individual class winners.

The Tarmac Cup will continue on with two more Rally Sprint rounds at the brilliant Perth Motorplex, a 5-Star motorsport venue (Map below), followed by the Albany Rally Sprint on the first weekend of March. The Tarmac Cup, which is the championship over all of all Tarmac Events WA events for the season, will then come to a

head at the single day Tarmac South West Rally before finishing with the biggest event of the year, Tarmac West.

To learn more or register for upcoming events, head to tarmacevents.com.au



GIVING MOTORSPORT A CHOICE



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